



July 6, 2018

Dear State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Director:

In May, at the 2018 NASADAD/CAST/CSAP Annual Meeting, the National Council for Behavioral Health and the National Alliance for Recovery Residences teamed up with three of your SSA colleagues to present a plenary session on [Strategies to Ensure Access to and Quality of Recovery Housing](#). The session underscored the need for states to be proactive in uplifting the standards of recovery homes and supporting the availability of quality-run homes to individuals seeking long-term recovery, as reflected in the recent [State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing](#).

The timing of this presentation and the addiction field's current focus on recovery housing coincides with SAMHSA's current Funding Opportunity Announcement for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants, which includes the following directive:

*In addition to these treatment services, grantees will be required to employ effective prevention and recovery support services to ensure that individuals are receiving a comprehensive array of services across the spectrum of prevention, treatment, and recovery.*

*Implement community recovery support services such as peer supports, recovery coaches, and recovery housing. Grantees must ensure that recovery housing supported under this grant is in an appropriate and legitimate facility. Individuals in recovery should have a meaningful role in developing the service array used in your program.*

This language from SAMHSA is unprecedented, as are directives to states to directly support recovery housing as a part of grant activities. As you consider your grant applications, we urge you to be strategic in your planning, considering ways to leverage grant funding to build the capacity of recovery housing infrastructure in your state. In addition to creating funding mechanisms to directly support recovery housing, we hope that you will use of our [State Policy Guide for Supporting Recovery Housing](#) to assist your planning. The guide outlines a roadmap designed to help states build infrastructure through the following domains: Definitions and Standards, Financial Incentives, Public Awareness, and Expanding Access.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to working with you to guarantee that individuals with opioid addiction have access to housing that supports their recovery. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any assistance as you move forward with your grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Hill  
Vice President, Practice Improvement  
National Council for Behavioral Health

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Sheridan".

Dave Sheridan  
President  
National Alliance for Recovery Residences